



STATE OF MICHIGAN
BUREAU OF ELECTIONS
LANSING

May 23, 2022

REVIEW OF NOMINATING PETITION

CHRISTOPHER WICKMAN
Nonpartisan Candidate for 30th Circuit Judge, Non-Incumbent Position

NUMBER OF VALID SIGNATURES REQUIRED: 1,000 signatures.

TOTAL FILING: 1,188 signatures.

RESULT OF FACE REVIEW: 1,106 facially valid signatures, 82 invalid signatures.

Total number of signatures filed		1,188
Not registered	Less:	6
Jurisdiction errors (no city in county known by name given by signer, dual jurisdiction entry, jurisdiction name given by signer does not align with address)	Less:	6
Date errors (no date given by signer, date of birth entered, or date given by signer is later than circulator's date of signing)	Less:	28
Address errors (no street address or rural route given)	Less:	1
Circulator errors (circulator did not sign or date petition, etc.)	Less:	20
Signature errors (no signature or incomplete signature)	Less:	5
Miscellaneous errors (signatures of dubious authenticity where the petition signature does not match the signature on file or multiple signatures appear to have been written by the same individual, etc.)	Less:	16
TOTAL		1,106

In total, staff's face review of Mr. Wickman's petition sheets identified 82 invalid signatures and 1,106 facially valid signatures.

CHALLENGE: Morgan Cole submitted a challenge to Mr. Wickman's nominating petitions. First, Mr. Cole alleged that all of Mr. Wickman's petition sheets were invalid because the incorrect date appeared on each petition sheet. Specifically, Mr. Cole claims that each petition sheet states that the primary election occurs on August 22nd rather than on August 2nd.

Staff recommends that the Board reject Mr. Cole's first challenge. Mr. Wickman's petition sheets appear to originally have had "8th" handwritten in as the date on which the primary

election would occur. Each petition was then corrected to specify the primary election would occur on the “2nd.” Generally, staff does not recommend invalidating petition sheets if incorrect text in petition headers has been corrected by crossing out the incorrect text and writing in the correct text, so long as a voter would understand corrected text. Here, rather than crossing out the “8th” and replacing it with the “2nd,” Mr. Wickman wrote over the “8th” with the “2nd.” Then, presumably because the “2nd” written over the “8th” was unclear, a second “2nd” was added above the initial “2nd” written over the “8th:”

~~(City or Township)~~ 2nd
2nd
The Primary Election to be held on the _____

This correction, which appears on each of Mr. Wickman’s petitions, would not cause a voter to believe that the primary occurred on the 22nd, rather than on the 2nd. Thus, staff recommends rejecting Mr. Cole’s challenge on that basis.

Second, Mr. Cole challenged 201 specific signatures submitted by Mr. Wickman. 81 of the signatures challenged by Mr. Cole were signatures staff had determined to be invalid during face review, reducing the total number of remaining challenged signatures to 120. Mr. Wickman responded to the challenge, claiming that his sheets were not misdated and disputing that at least 52 of the signatures challenged by Cole were invalid.

Because the 120 remaining challenged signatures exceeded the Mr. Wickman’s “cushion” of 106 excess signatures, staff processed the challenge. Staff determining that 76 of the 120 challenged signatures were valid. The 44 remaining challenged signatures were determined to be invalid, as follows:

Total number of facially valid signatures after face review		1,106
Not registered	<i>Less:</i>	41
Date errors (no date given by signer, date of birth entered, or date given by signer is later than circulator’s date of signing)	<i>Less:</i>	2
Signature errors (no signature or incomplete signature)	<i>Less:</i>	1
TOTAL		1,062

After the challenge was processed, Mr. Wickman has 1,062 valid signatures remaining.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Determine petition sufficient.